

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00236 261231Z
ACTION SY-05

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R 261020Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4883
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0236

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJ: PHYSICAL SECURITY - AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE AND STAFF
QUARTERS - LUSAKA

REF: (A) NAIROBI 0658, (B) STATE 000110, (C) LUSAKA 3424

1. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED IN LUSAKA A-72, 12/21/76, THERE HAS BEEN A MARKED INCREASE IN CRIME IN LUSAKA, ESPECIALLY BURGLARIES, DURING THE LAST FEW MONTHS. SINCE THEN TWO MORE CHIEF OF MISSION'S RESIDENCES HAVE BEEN ROBBED, BRINGING THE TOTAL TO FOUR IN THE PAST TWO MONTHS. BURGLARIES HAVE OCCURRED ON BOTH SIDES OF THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. POLICE APPEAR TO BE INEFFECTIVE AND UNRESPONSIVE IN COMBATING THE RASH OF LAWLESSNESS. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS PERSONS WHO CONFRONTED BURGLARS WERE SEVERELY INJURED. AS LONG AS THE ECONOMY REMAINS DEPRESSED, AS APPEARS LIKELY OVER THE NEXT YEAR OR TWO, THIS SITUATION PROBABLY WILL CONTINUE TO DETERIORATE.

2. BEYOND THIS WE SEE NO EARLY PROSPECT FOR LESSENING OF TENSION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. ON THE CONTRARY THE LIKELIHOOD IS THAT THE WAR WILL INCREASE IN INTENSITY WITH GREATER PARTICIPATION FROM ZAMBIA. THIS WILL LEAD TO THE PRESENCE OF MORE FIREARMS AND LESS CONTROL OVER THEIR USE. WE BELIEVE THE PROBLEM SHOULD BE ADDRESSED BEFORE IT BECOMES MORE SERIOUS.

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3. IN RESPONSE TO EMBASSY'S INCREASING CONCERN ABOUT SECURITY, THE RSO VISITED LUSAKA JAN 10 - 12 TO ASSESS THE SECURITY SITUATION. HE AND THE GSO MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BRITISH AND CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONS, AND THE ANDERSON SECURITY CONTRACT GUARD SERVICE TO DISCUSS STEPS THAT SHOULD BE OR HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO IMPROVE PHYSICAL SECURITY AT RESIDENCES. RSO THEN CONDUCTED A THOROUGH, COMPREHENSIVE, AND IMMEDIATELY

HELPFUL SURVEY. AS A RESULT OF HIS CONSULTATIONS AND SURVEY, RSO RECOMMENDED THE INSTALLATION OF HALF-INCH BURGLAR BARS AT ALL RESIDENCES, INSTALLING SEVERAL SOLID DOORS AT THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE AND THE CHANGING OF LOCKS AT MOST RESIDENCES.

4. THE POST IMMEDIATELY WILL BEGIN TO COMPLY WITH THE RSO'S RECOMMENDATION RE LOCKS AND DOORS AND CONCURS WITH RSO'S RECOMMENDATION THAT HALF-INCH SQUARE BURGLAR BARS BE GROUTED INTO MASONRY OR AFFIXED WITH THROUGH BOLTS. ESTIMATES RECEIVED FROM QUALIFIED FIRMS INDICATE THE COST OF INSTALLATION OF BURGLAR BARS AT GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND LEASE-PURCHASE CONTRACT RESIDENCES WILL BE APPROXIMATELY \$26,000. APPROXIMATELY \$7,000 WILL BE REQUIRED FOR STATE-LEASED QUARTERS SHOULD THE LESSOR REFUSE TO ABSORB ANY OR ALL OF THE COST. BARS FOR USIS LEASED QUARTERS WOULD COST \$7,800.

5. THE TOTAL COST \$33,000 (STATE) AND \$7,800 (USIS) TO INSTALL BURGLAR BARS AT GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND LEASED QUARTERS AVERAGES OUT TO \$2,000 PER UNIT AT EACH RESIDENCE--A SMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR GOOD PHYSICAL SECURITY FOR THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE AND STAFF QUARTERS.

6. THE POST WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING THE DEPT'S APPROVAL AND AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDS TO PROCEED WITH THIS WORK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. BIDS WILL THEN BE SOLICITED FOR THIS PROJECT. AN EARLY REPLY IS REQUESTED. LOW

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